(4) whether this sum of Rs. 20 given in advance to Chathu Nayar was realised by the Government and if so, when and how ;

(5) did the Assistant Engineer, Northern Division, once recommend that the T. A. may be given to Chathu Nayar even though the latter did not perform the journey to Madras ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—(1) In Chingam 1102. No.

(2) No.

Vide reply to (1) above.

(3) and (4) The questions do not arise in view of reply to (2) above.

(5) No.

Hindu staff quarters at Vadakkancheri.

118. Mr. C. J. Mathew.—Will the Government kindly state:—

(1) whether the use of the Hindu staff quarters at Vadakkancheri was sanctioned for lodging a marriage party of the Assistant Engineer, Northern Division; and if so, under what terms;

(2) whether the marriage party was lodged at the Hindu staff quarters at Vadakkancheri; and if so, for how many days and what amount was paid to the Government per terms?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—

(1) Yes, on payment of usual fees.

(2) The answer to the former part of the question is in the negative.

No reply is necessary for the latter.

Revised Cochin Canal Rules.

119. Mr. A. B. Salem.—Will the Government be pleased to state:—

(a) whether according to clauses Nos. 4, 5 and 6 of the revised Cochin Canal Rules published on pages 676 and 677 of the Cochin Government Gazette, dated 19th May 1928, any taxation or imposts are to be levied upon vessels that were not liable to such imposts or taxation prior to it;

(b) if any vessels come under it, will the Government be pleased to state the nature of such vessels;

(c) whether any one has protested against this fresh levy of canal dues;

(d) if so, will the Government be pleased to state the names of the parties that have so protested and the nature of their protests?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—(a) Yes.

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(b) Vessels registered under Indian Ports Act which were originally exempted require licensing under certain conditions in the State if they are to ply in Cochin waters.

(c) Yes.

(d) (1) Chamber of Commerce, Cochin, (2) The Tata Oil Mills Ltd., Ernakulam, (3) The Malabar Navigation and Industrials Ltd., Cochin.

They wanted to restore old order of things by which their vessels will get exemption and thus enjoy the benefit of less payment.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know these conditions, Sir, in (b)?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—The conditions are first of all that these have not been licensed in Cochin. The terms of payment are different between what they pay under Indian Port Trusts Act and the Cochin Act.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I understand all that. What is stated here is as follows:—"Vessels registered under Indian Ports Act which were originally exempted require licensing under certain conditions in the State if they are to ply in Cochin waters."

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—That is if they are not licensed here.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—They were not licensed before also. If they were not to be licensed after the operation of this Act, then the license fee will be levied. What I understand is under these revised rules they are exempted. These rules are made under the same Regulation. Why were these vessels exempted all this time?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—They were exempted before. They are not exempted now.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Why are they not exempted now? What is the provision of law under which that exemption has been taken off?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Government have got the rule-making powers. And they have been altered.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know the meaning of the terms 'under certain conditions'?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—That is, if the vessels are not registered in Cochin already, registration under the Port Trusts Act will not be valid. No exemption will be given. That is the rule as it was published.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I think, even before the recent rules, vessels that were taxed, even though registered, had to take licenses here.

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Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—There were vessels which take licenses only under the Port Trusts Act, and this rule applies only to such vessels. Some vessels were registered only under the Cochin Port Trusts Act. Such vessels were before the date of the coming into force of this new rule exempted. Now they will not be exempted hereafter.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know the reason ? That is what I wanted.

Deputy Pesident.— Government have introduced the rules.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—If you want to know the reasons, I am not prepared to give them now. Government have changed the rules. Do you want to know the reasons ? Then I want notice. It might be a lengthy thing. I may tell you one thing, that the Cochin Rules, Madras Rules and Travancore Rules are identical. Our Port Trusts Rules were far too lenient; so we wanted to make all the three rules the same. That is one reason. There might have been other reasons.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know, Sir, what you mean by 'these vessels' ?

Roa Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I do not know. You must look into the definition.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Whether under these rules you have brought all the vessels, all vessels coming in here ?

Roa Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Yes.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—May I know what those vessels are ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—There is a definition in the Regulation.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am only asking a question.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—It depends upon the definition in the Act. If you tell me a particular case, then I shall tell you.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Is the steamer a vessel ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I do not think. Under the Inland Canal Navigation Rules a sea-going steamer is not a vessel.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sea-going steamer, does it mean any vessel ? Any sea-going craft ? May I know your definition, Sir ?

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—I have not come here to discuss the point.

Deputy President.—You are bound by the definition given in the Act. What is the additional fact you want ? You ask a supplementary question to get an additional information.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—I am to get information on these: definition of 'these vessels' and 'certain conditions'; what is meant

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by vessels registered under the Indian Port Trusts Act. Every steamer is registered under the Port Trusts Act for the matter of that.

Rao Bhadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Steamers are not registered under the Port Trusts Act. No; they are not registered.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—*Pattamars* ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—I do not know.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—Sea-going Donnies ?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—It may be registered under the Indian Port Trusts Act or under the Inland Canal Navigation Act.

Mr. A. B. Salem.—And *Pattamars* had been used to be registered under the Inland Canal Navigation Act. It is a matter that has been burning, Sir.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—Representation is to be given by the steamer agents to bring about the proposed change. And that is under consideration. There is no use of discussing that here.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—It is a legal question and what is what and all that.

Opening of new roads.

120 **Mr. I. E. Ambooken.**—Will the Government be pleased to state the amount that has been spent in the current year for opening new roads in the State and the places of each of these new roads are located?

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—A statement showing the new roads opened in 1103 under P. W. D. and the several Panchayats is appended. (*Vide Appendix I.*)

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—May I know why in several items given in the appendix the amount is not stated ?

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Those works are under progress.

Mr. I. E. Ambooken.—All the other works are finished. Those for which amounts are stated here are finished.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—Nearing completion.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Figures show the amounts spent by the Public Works Department in 1103. So that, up to this, no amount has been spent.

Mr. A. K. Vengu Ayyar.—So far as the roads are concerned.

Rao Bahadur Mr. John Kuriyan.—Amounts have been budgetted; but the work may not have been done.

Mr. I. Raman Menon.—They have been paid interest, and they did not give any final accounts.

Contracts in the Forest Departments.

121. **Mr. C. A. Kunjunni Raja.**—Will the Government be pleased to state.—

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